

Message Text

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LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ANKARA NICOSIA
ROME FROM ATHENS 19 MAY 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3689

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJ: BITSIOS - CAGLAYANGIL MEETING IN ROME

REF STATE 115953

1. TODAY I HAD A PRIVATE LUNCH WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
STAVROPOULOS AND I ASKED HIM WHAT HE COULD TELL ME ABOUT THE
BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL MEETINGS OVER THE WEEKEND IN ROME.
STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT THE MEETINGS HAD NOT GOTTEN OFF TO A
VERY GOOD START WHEN BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD MET LAST
SATURDAY AFTERNOON FOR THEIR INITIAL PRIVATE SESSION -- JUST
THE TWO OF THEM -- IN ROME. HE SAID THAT CAGLAYANGIL STAKED
OUT THE WELL-KNOWN MAXIMUM TURKISH POSITIONS ON BOTH THE
AEGEAN DISPUTE AND A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. HE
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SAID HE WAS STILL AWAITING FULL DETAILS OF THAT AND THEIR

SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS BUT THAT BITSIOS WAS UNABLE TO TELL FROM THEIR SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING MEETING WHETHER CAGLAYANGIL WAS USING THIS APPROACH AS A NEGOTIATING TACTIC, PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS LATER, OR WHETHER THE TURKS INTENDED TO ADHERE VERY CLOSELY TO THEIR OPENING POSITIONS BELIEVING THEY WERE NEGOTIATING FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH AND ALWAYS HAD THE ALTERNATIVE OF MILITARY ACTION TO REACH THEIR OBJECTIVES IF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BROKE DOWN.

2. ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE, STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT AS OF LATE THIS MORNING (MONDAY) THEY HAD STILL NOT REACHED AGREEMENT ON A DRAFT "COMPROMIS" TO SUBMIT TO THE WORLD COURT. HE CONFIRMED -- AS NOMIKOS SAID YESTERDAY TO LAINGEN IN WASHINGTON -- THAT THE TURKS WANTED TO DISCUSS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE RATHER THAN FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON THE TERMS OF REFERRAL TO THE ICJ. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT IT APPEARED THAT LEGAL EXPERTS FROM THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERIES WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE WORKING ON POSSIBLE LANGUAGE FOR THE "COMPROMIS" AFTER THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS DEPARTED ROME.

3. ON CYPRUS, STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT THE REPORTING CABLES OF THE SESSIONS THUS FAR HAD NOT REVEALED ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE ALREADY WELL-KNOWN TURKISH POSITIONS. CAGLAYANGIL WAS CONTINUING TO INSIST THAT BITSIOS ACCEPT THE BIZONAL PRINCIPLE IN ADVANCE OF DISCUSSING OTHER ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT IN DETAIL. BITSIOS WAS NOT EXCLUDING A BIZONAL SETTLEMENT BUT WAS INSISTING ON OBTAINING CLARIFICATION OF OTHER ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT. STAVROPOULOS CHARACTERIZED THE TURK POSITION AS BEING SOMETHING LIKE A SALESMAN TRYING TO SELL A CUSTOMER A SUIT: THE SALESMAN WAS INSISTING THAT THE CUSTOMER MAKE THE DECISION TO BUY THE SUIT BEFORE HE WOULD CONSENT TO TELL HIM THE PRICE. THIS WAS HARDLY "NEGOTIATIONS".

4. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL WERE PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A COMMUNIQUE THIS MORNING AND THAT CAGLAYANGIL WAS ARGUING FOR A FAIRLY FULL-CONFIDENTIAL

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BLOWN, "FLAMBUOYANT" AND UPBEAT COMMUNIQUE. BITSIOS, ACCORDING TO STAVROPOULOS, WAS HOLDING OUT FOR A MORE REALISTIC -- AND, BYT IMPLICATION, LESS OPTIMISTIC -- CHARACTERIZATION OF THEIR MEETINGS. STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT GREEK OFFICIALS WERE SPECULATING TODAY AS TO WHY THE TURKS MIGHT BE PUSHING FOR A COMMUNIQUE THAT WAS MORE POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING IN TONE THAN WAS REALLY WARRANTED BY THE ROME MEETINGS. HE SAID THAT SOME GREEK OFFICIALS

THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE AN EFFORT BY THE TURKS TO INFLUENCE THE VOTE IN THE US SENATE ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. OTHERS THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE AN EFFORT BY CAGLAYANGIL TO SHOW THE SECRETARY, ON THE EVE OF HIS VISIT TO ANKARA, HOW HARD THE TURKS WERE TRYING TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE GREEKS. MORE DARKLY, STAVROPOULOS WENT ON, WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TURKS WERE TRYING TO FOOL THE GREEKS AND MISLEAD THE WORLD AS TO THEIR INTENTIONS IN ORDER TO MASK A POSSIBLE MILITARY ADVENTURE IN THE NEAR FUTURE AGAINST SOME OF THE GREEK ISLANDS. CONSISTENT WITH NOMIKOS' REMARKS IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY, STAVROPOULOS SAID THAT HE AND TOP GREEK OFFICIALS HAD HAD REPORTS FROM "FIVE DIFFERENT SOURCES" -- INCLUDING ONE IN THE U.S. (HE WOULD NOT IDENTIFY) -- THAT THE TURKS ARE ORGANIZING AND PLANNING FOR SOME KIND OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE GREEK ISLANDS IN THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE. HE ASKED ME IF I HAD ANY INFORMATION TO CORROBORATE THIS, AND I SAID THAT I DID NOT.

5. BITSIOS IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO ATHENS AT MIDDAY TOMORROW, AND I SHALL TRY AND SEE HIM SOON AFTER HIS RETURN TO GET HIS OWN PERSONAL READ-OUT AND ASSESSMENT OF HIS MEETINGS WITH CAGLAYANGEIL. KUBISCH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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